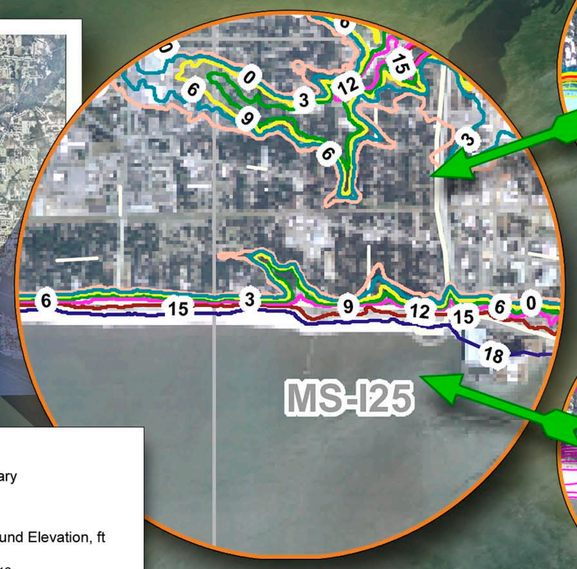
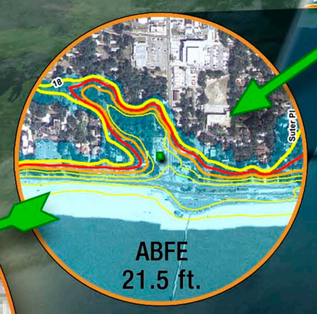
Harrison County, Mississippi

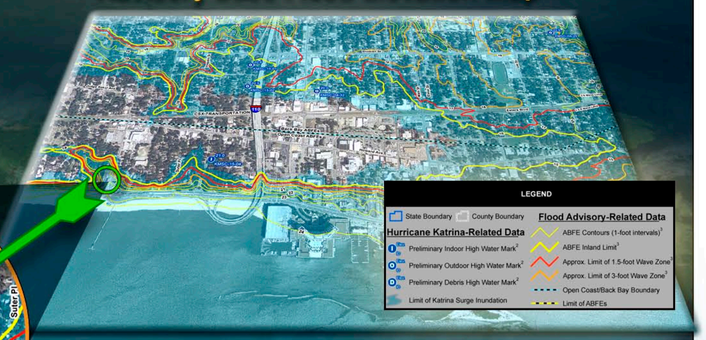
Advisory Base Flood Elevation to Existing Ground Elevation Differential

Hurricane Katrina Advisory Map
Difference Between Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) and Ground Elevations
Harrison County, Mississippi

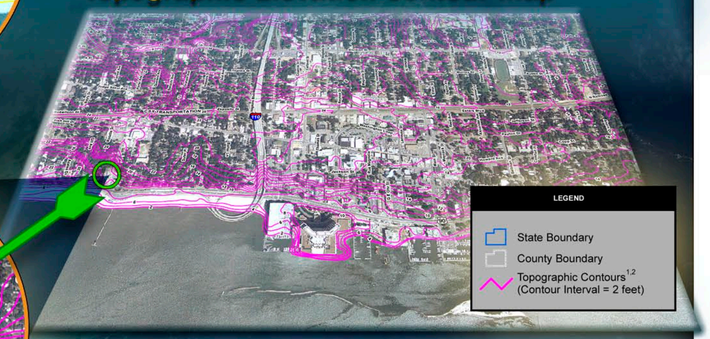




Advisory Base Flood Elevation Map



Topographic Elevation Contour Map



ABFE	Ground Elevation	Recommended Elevation Height
21.5 FEET	- 11 FEET	= 10.5 FEET

The purpose of this map is to show the relationship between the newly created Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps and relevant pre-event existing ground elevation data. The existing ground elevation was taken from pre-event topographic aerial data.

The difference between the ABFE elevations overlaid with the existing ground elevation illustrates the actual elevation height for a residential structure to be built. The iso-lines shown on the map are 3 foot contours which indicate the structure elevation heights to be constructed. The elevation heights are important in that the residential homeowner may have to elevate their residences with ample foundations, such as those recommended in FEMA publication 550 *Building on Safe and Strong Foundations*. Most of the structures in the map shown will be required to be elevated 9 feet or less above the existing grade.

FEMA 550 was developed by FEMA's Mitigation Assessment Team (MAT). For more information about FEMA's MAT Program: www.fema.gov/rebuild/mat/

For more information on the Katrina Recovery Maps produced for Mississippi: www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/recoverydata/katrina/katrina_ms_index.shtm

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How to Determine Advisory Base Flood Elevation to Existing Ground Elevation Differential

Once both the Katrina Recovery Map and the Topographic Map for a site are obtained, users need only to subtract the site's ground elevation (topographic elevation) from the site's ABFE to calculate the approximate elevation above grade. The property in this example has an ABFE of approximately 21.5 feet (located between the yellow 21- and 22-foot ABFE contours), and a ground elevation of approximately 11 feet (located between the purple 10- and 12-foot topographic contours). The difference between the ABFE elevations overlaid with the existing ground elevation illustrates the actual elevation height for a residential structure to be built. This site would need to be elevated approximately 10.5 feet above grade (21.5 feet minus 11 feet).

Overview of Graphic Development

The map graphic was developed by the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP) Team. The team utilized Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) topographic data gathered from the State of Mississippi and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center. The ABFE map was then georeferenced with the existing ground elevation map and the differences contours were developed at 3-foot intervals.